

**To:** Thomas, Hattie[Thomas.Hattie@epa.gov]  
**From:** Washburn, Ben  
**Sent:** Tue 3/4/2014 9:28:03 PM  
**Subject:** OPA Daily Digest 3/4/14

## **OPA Daily Digest for 3/4/14**

### **Congressional Inquiries:**

**Sen. Claire McCaskill, Sen. Roy Blunt, Rep. William Lacy Clay, Rep. Ann Wagner (Mo.):** 3/3/14. Request the EPA to work with the Corps on remediation work at the West Lake Landfill Superfund site. Due: 3/17/14.  
Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**Sen. Charles Grassley (Iowa):** 2/20/14. Constituent complaint about alleged contamination in Treynor, Iowa. Due: 3/6/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

### **State Government Inquiries:**

None

### **Press Inquiries:**

**St. Joseph News-Press** – Jennifer Hall – 3/4/14: Questions about highway spill of factory sludge from National Beef Products in St. Joseph. Referred to MDNR and local hazmat. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

**KTVI Channel 2, St. Louis** – Bonita Cornute – 3/4/14: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

**St. Louis Post Dispatch** – Blythe Bernhard - 3/4/14: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

## **Environmental Stories:**

**Mason City Globe-Gazette (Iowa) - Experts say they know where, what hazardous materials are stored - 3/1/14** - Dangerous chemicals like those which led to the evacuation of the city of Northwood following a Feb. 20 are all around us. [http://globegazette.com/news/local/experts-say-they-know-where-what-hazardous-materials-are-stored/article\\_a1429048-17e8-5b2e-af26-28eca640737f.html](http://globegazette.com/news/local/experts-say-they-know-where-what-hazardous-materials-are-stored/article_a1429048-17e8-5b2e-af26-28eca640737f.html)

**Des Moines Register - Register Investigation: Iowa's asbestos inspectors overloaded - 3/1/14** - A contractor's complaint has prompted closer scrutiny of possible asbestos exposure involving workers at a downtown Des Moines renovation project, but an inspector doesn't even visit hundreds of sites across Iowa each year where workers could face risks from the cancer-causing material. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014303020081>

**Press-Citizen (Iowa City) - Sewer services switch to southside plant | Iowa City relocates wastewater treatment to newer plant as older site preps for makeover - 3/1/14** - Six years after floodwaters surrounded the North Wastewater Treatment Plant, damaging pumps and electrical components, the city of Iowa City has decommissioned the 79-year-old facility and transferred operations to the newly expanded South Wastewater Treatment Plant on Napoleon Street. <http://www.press-citizen.com/article/20140302/NEWS01/303020012/Sewer-services-switch-southside-plant>

**Columbia Missourian - Franklin County Hearing on Coal Ash Landfill Pushed to April 22 - 3/1/14** - An appeal hearing on a coal ash landfill that is proposed to be built next to Ameren's Labadie Energy Center has been pushed to April 22. [http://www.emissourian.com/local\\_news/county/article\\_13eb5659-8f53-506f-9050-1d272fe5b214.html](http://www.emissourian.com/local_news/county/article_13eb5659-8f53-506f-9050-1d272fe5b214.html)

**Associated Press (blog) – Nixon: Build the Keystone Pipeline – 3/3/14** - Gov. Jay Nixon tells SoS John Kerry in a letter to approve the Keystone pipeline. Approving Keystone “will strengthen our economy, create jobs, and promote North American energy independence.” <http://www.kansascity.com/2014/03/03/4862306/nixon-build-the-keystone-pipeline.html>

**PoliticMo - Nixon joins other Missouri lawmakers in favor of Keystone XL pipeline - 3/3/14** - Before taking off en route to Canada for his latest trade mission, Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon joined other Missouri lawmakers in calling on the Obama administration to approve the Keystone XL pipeline. <http://politicmo.com/2014/03/03/nixon-joins-other-missouri-lawmakers-in-favor-of-keystone-xl-pipeline/>

**Sioux City Journal (Iowa) - Perry: Transition in oiling as renewable fuel standard has less impact - 2/28/14** -

Texas Gov. Rick Perry said Friday there may be a transition period in the offing as the federal renewable fuel standard becomes less important in the future. [http://siouxcityjournal.com/ap/lee/perry-transition-in-offing-as-renewable-fuel-standard-has-less/article\\_4c19c514-ea25-5794-bc7e-53549b747ce2.html](http://siouxcityjournal.com/ap/lee/perry-transition-in-offing-as-renewable-fuel-standard-has-less/article_4c19c514-ea25-5794-bc7e-53549b747ce2.html)

**NPR - Environmental Groups Call For Controls For Coal Ash** - 3/4/14 - The Sierra Club of Illinois and the Prairie Rivers Network are among a number of environmental groups lobbying the state to hold energy suppliers accountable for coal-ash pollution. <http://wuus.org/post/environmental-groups-call-controls-coal-ash>

**Mason City Globe Gazette (Iowa) - Geothermal heating and cooling systems can make sense for old, new homes** - 3/4/14 - The rising cost of fossil fuels — especially this winter when LP is more than \$4 a gallon — means geothermal systems make more sense than ever before. [globegazette.com/news/local/geothermal-heating-and-cooling-systems-can-make-sense-for-old/article\\_b8e04833-f523-5a2d-aacb-a7d2790d00a0.html](http://globegazette.com/news/local/geothermal-heating-and-cooling-systems-can-make-sense-for-old/article_b8e04833-f523-5a2d-aacb-a7d2790d00a0.html)

**Nixa Press (Mo.) - MDC: Celebrate 25 years of Missouri Stream Teams keeping our waters clean** - 3/3/14 - The Missouri Stream Team Program is a citizen-led effort to conserve Missouri streams. Sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and the Conservation Federation of Missouri. [http://nixapress.com/n2christiancounty/mdc-celebrate-years-of-missouri-stream-teams-keeping-our-waters/article\\_05603b02-c6f3-5081-a672-07091cbe7ec1.html](http://nixapress.com/n2christiancounty/mdc-celebrate-years-of-missouri-stream-teams-keeping-our-waters/article_05603b02-c6f3-5081-a672-07091cbe7ec1.html)

**KBIA Radio, Columbia, Mo. - Proponents pushing a plan to reduce e-waste in Missouri landfills (audio)** - 3/3/14 - In Missouri, certain businesses, schools, churches and government agencies are required by law to properly manage electronic waste or e-waste. <http://kbia.org/post/proponents-pushing-plan-reduce-e-waste-missouri-landfills>

**Lincoln Journal Star - LES offers \$35 incentive to recycle old fridges, freezers** - 3/4/14 - Lincoln Electric System customers can get a \$35 incentive reward for recycling secondary, energy-wasting refrigerators or freezers. [http://journalstar.com/news/local/les-offers-incentive-to-recycle-old-fridges-freezers/article\\_b2d84cfd-1697-5ab9-ba64-374b38c9ea1d.html](http://journalstar.com/news/local/les-offers-incentive-to-recycle-old-fridges-freezers/article_b2d84cfd-1697-5ab9-ba64-374b38c9ea1d.html)

**Sioux City Journal - Harvesting The Wind: Wind energy boom blows into Northwest Iowa county** - 3/2/14 - Lately, the vast wind resource has turned a rural Northwest Iowa county into a hotbed of economic activity. A bevy of companies are moving ahead with large-scale projects that would harness and export the renewable energy to more populated regions. <http://bit.ly/1gNfy0B>

**Omaha World-Herald - Editorial: Feds could show flexibility** - 3/2/14 - Our area has been hit with examples of heavy-handedness by federal government agencies, including FEMA and EPA. Federal agencies need to show reasonable flexibility, and elected officials who write the laws need to be aware of the burdens being placed on local taxpayers. <http://www.omaha.com/article/20140302/NEWS08/140309943>

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Jefferson County port plan may actually float** - 3/2/14 - A Mississippi River port has long been touted as a way to boost Jefferson County's economy, but getting the sought-after barge traffic remained elusive. Now the project is moving closer to reality. [http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/jefferson-county-port-plan-may-actually-float/article\\_28437907-3fa2-59a2-be82-fdf49ea63eb1.html](http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/jefferson-county-port-plan-may-actually-float/article_28437907-3fa2-59a2-be82-fdf49ea63eb1.html)

**Lawrence Journal-World - Battle over renewable energy ahead in legislative session** - 3/2/14 - Demands from conservatives to jettison Kansas' renewable energy standards died down by halftime of the 2014 legislative session, but like the Kansas weather, that could change at any moment. <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2014/mar/01/battle-over-renewable-energy-may-be-picking/>

**Associated Press - Missouri E15 ethanol rule on track to take effect** - 3/2/14 - Missouri motorists could be able to buy a higher blend of ethanol gasoline as early as this summer because of a new policy pushed by Gov. Jay Nixon over the unsuccessful objections of some lawmakers. <http://www.kansascity.com/2014/03/02/4859648/missouri-e15-ethanol-rule-on-track.html>

**Omaha World-Herald - Intermodal shipping gains steam as faster, cheaper alternative** - 3/3/14 - In a typical year, Iowa Interstate Railroad's intermodal terminal on the eastern edge of Council Bluffs transfers about 50,000 shipping containers from trucks to railcars, or vice versa. <http://www.omaha.com/article/20140303/MONEY/140309942>

**Wichita Business Journal - SandRidge expanding Sumner County drilling operation with lease of 100,000 acres** - 3/3/14 - CEO James Bennett says the company has added Sumner County to its drilling area of emphasis. He told investors during an earnings call last week that SandRidge now has 100,000 acres leased in Sumner County. <http://www.bizjournals.com/wichita/news/2014/03/03/sandridge-expanding-sumner-county.html>

**Washington Post - John Podesta: The man behind President Obama's new environmental push** - 3/4/14 - New White House counselor John Podesta is playing a central role in pushing the Obama administration to adopt a more aggressive posture on environmental policies this year. [http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/john-podesta-the-man-behind-president-obamas-new-environmental-push/2014/03/03/fa6ba57e-9f5a-11e3-b8d8-94577ff66b28\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/john-podesta-the-man-behind-president-obamas-new-environmental-push/2014/03/03/fa6ba57e-9f5a-11e3-b8d8-94577ff66b28_story.html)

**UPI - U.S. oil group questions EPA rules, auto sector sings praise** - 3/3/14 - Representatives from the automotive sector praised U.S. rules for lower emissions, though the oil industry said it questioned the benefits. [http://www.upi.com/Business\\_News/Energy-Resources/2014/03/04/US-oil-group-questions-EPA-rules-auto-sector-sings-praise/UPI-18271393938184/](http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Energy-Resources/2014/03/04/US-oil-group-questions-EPA-rules-auto-sector-sings-praise/UPI-18271393938184/)

**Bloomberg - Refiners Rebuff EPA Concessions in Rule to Cut Sulfur** - 3/3/14 - Refiners say concessions offered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in an order issued today to reduce smog-producing sulfur in gasoline aren't enough and the rule will still result in higher prices for consumers. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-03-03/refiners-must-cut-sulfur-in-gasoline-in-new-epa-rules.html>

**Harvard Magazine - Infrared: A Renewable Energy Source?** - 3/3/14 - Physicists at the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences have conceived of a device that could produce energy from the infrared radiation naturally emitted from Earth into outer space. <http://harvardmagazine.com/2014/03/infrared-as-a-renewable-energy-source>

**The Hill (blog) - Green group accuses GOP of 'environmental racism'** - 3/3/14 - House Republicans are being accused of "environmental racism" by an environmental group that argues GOP efforts to reform decades-old chemical laws would disproportionately harm minority groups. <http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/199755-green-group-accuses-gop-of-environmental-racism>

**New Orleans Time-Picayune - New Republican chemical bill backed by industry, but environmental advocates object** - 3/4/14 - House Republicans are offering a new draft chemical regulation bill that the industry backs but that environment advocates say would keep residents near chemical plants in the dark about potential dangers. [http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/03/new\\_republican\\_chemical\\_bill\\_b.html](http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/03/new_republican_chemical_bill_b.html)

**Mason City Globe-Gazette (Iowa) - Five Star investing \$9.7M in 3 towns** - 3/2/14 - Five Star Cooperative, based out of New Hampton, plans to invest approximately \$9.7 million in three North Iowa communities this year, including Joice, Hanlontown and Scarville. <http://bit.ly/NmS7CM>

**Associated Press - Buffett says rail tank cars need upgrades for oil** - 3/3/14 - Investor Warren Buffett says it's clear that railroad tank cars carrying crude oil need to be updated because oil from certain regions has the potential to be more dangerous than previously thought. [http://qctimes.com/business/buffett-says-rail-tank-cars-need-upgrades-for-oil/article\\_b3183082-a0fe-52d0-bfa9-b2979e423fd5.html](http://qctimes.com/business/buffett-says-rail-tank-cars-need-upgrades-for-oil/article_b3183082-a0fe-52d0-bfa9-b2979e423fd5.html)

## **Press Releases:**

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

**La EPA establece normas para combustibles y autos más limpios, recorta contaminación atmosférica, y provee beneficios de salud a miles** – 3/4/14 – Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

**Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

**Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:**

\* New additions noted with an asterisk

**3/8/14** – Sierra Club 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Hattie Thomas, 7762

**3/18-19/14** – RA/DRA Joint Meeting, Denver, Colo., Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**3/20/14** – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – Washburn University, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

**3/21/14** – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

**3/24/14** – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

**3/26/14** – Waters of the U.S. Outreach Event – University of Lincoln, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Kris Lancaster 7557

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**3/27/14** – Deputy Administrator Bob Perciasepe to Visit Region 7, Regional Office. Contact: Mark Hague, 7546

**3/31/14** – Madison and Lila Self Graduate Spring Symposium, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: David Bryan, 7433

**4/1/14** – Joint EPA/FTA/FHWA Meeting Regarding the Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative, Regional

Office. Contact: David Doyle, 7667

**4/3/14** – Mid-American Environmental Compliance Conference, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Dave Cozad, 7587

**4/22/14** – Sprint WasteWise Event, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**DRA:**

**3/4/14** – Executive Management Council, Washington DC. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

**3/18-19/14** – RA/DRA Joint Meeting, Denver, Colo., Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**RA/Immediate Office**

None

**Other Events**

**AWMD**

None

**CNSL**

None

**ECO/EJ**

**3/13/2014** – EJ Small Grants Community Tour, Press Event and Stakeholder Roundtable, Wichita, Kan. Contact: Corazzin, 7429

**ENSV**

None

## **PLMG**

**3/4/14** - Federal Executive Board & Chamber of Commerce Small Business Networking Event, Kansas City, Mo.  
Contact: Chester Stovall 7549

**3/11/14** –Metropolitan Community College Procurement One-on-One Conference, Kansas City, Mo. Contact:  
Chester Stovall 7549

**4/1/14** - Federal Executive Board & Chamber of Commerce Small Business Networking Event, Kansas City, Mo.  
Contact: Chester Stovall 7549

**4/1/14** - Federal Executive Board Federal Contracting Do's & Don'ts Workshop, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chester  
Stovall 7549

**4/2/14** - State of Missouri Disparity Study Stakeholder Conference, Kansas City, Mo. Chester Stovall 7549

**4/3/14** – US Corps of Engineers' Society of Military Engineers Annual Contracting Conference, Kansas City, Mo.  
Chester Stovall 7549

## **RA/OPA**

None

## **SUPR**

**3/3/14** – Emergency planning meeting with local response agencies and the Johnson County Environmental and  
Health Department, Olathe, Kan. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

**3/6/14** – Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response meeting, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Scott Hayes,  
7670



**3/18-19/14** - National Response Team/Regional Response Team Co-Chairs meeting, Atlanta, Ga. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

**4/1-2/14** - Hosting spring Regional Response Team meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

## **WWPD**

**\*3/9-13/14** – National Association of State Drinking Water Administrators meeting and National EPA Drinking Water Managers Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: Mary Mindrup, 7431

**\*3/10-12/14** – EPA Water Division Directors Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

**\*3/11-14/14** – Water Quality Standards National Program Meeting, Washington, DC. Contacts: John DeLashmit, 7821, Ann Lavaty, 7370

**\*3/16-18/14** – Nebraska Rural Water Association Conference, Meeting with State Partners on Drinking Water Issues, Grand Island, Neb. Contact: Ken Deason, 7585

**\*3/27-28/14** Quarterly Public Water Supply Enforcement Coordination Meeting with Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines, Iowa. Contacts: Scott Marquess, 7131, Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

**\*4/1-2/14** – Regulatory Update Presentation at American Water Works Association Annual Conference, Osage Beach, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

**\*4/28-5/4/14** – Toxic Substances and Control Act Case Development to EPA Regions 1-4 Case Management Officers, Washington, DC. Contact: Maria Morey, 7079

**\*5/5-8/14** – Environmental Leaders Institute State / Tribal / EPA Training Workshop, Shepherdstown, W.Va. Contact: Tabatha Adkins, 7128

**\*5/12-16/14** – National Total Maximum Daily Load/Measures and 303(d) Listing Conference, Denver, Co.  
Contacts: Tabatha Adkins, 7128, Bruce Perkins, 7067, Debby White, 7886